

Message Text

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TO USICA WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13099

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: FELIKS KUZNETSOV COMMENTS ON US-USSR WRITER
EXCHANGES

REF: USICA 8938

1. EMBASSY WILL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH
FELIKS KUZNETSOV HIS RECENT VISIT TO USA, ALSO HIS
VIEWS ON WIDENING THE SCOPE OF WRITERS EXCHANGES BE-
YOND THOSE CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY NORMAN COUSINS AND
NIKOLAY FEDORENKO.

2. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, KUZNETSOV'S EFFORTS WILL BE
WELCOMED BY A WIDE CIRCLE OF PROMINENT WRITERS AND
CRITICS, SOME OF THEM WELL-KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY,
MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN OPENLY (TO EMBOFFS) CRITICAL OF
FEDORENKO'S UNYIELDING APPROACH IN ORGANIZING SELEC-
TION SOVIET PARTICIPANTS FOR PAST TWO CONFERENCES.
EMBASSY IS NOT SUGGESTING, HOWEVER THAT KUZNETSOV
IS PLANNING OR WOULD WELCOME THE FORMATION OF A GROUP
OPPOSED TO FEDORENKO'S LEADERSHIP. NOR WOULD WE.

3. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, FEDORENKO WILL REMAIN IN CONTROL
OF THE EXCHANGE OF WRITERS CONFERENCES AS PRESENTLY
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CONSTITUTED, WORKING WITH HIS "GOOD FRIEND" NORMAN
COUSINS ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. HOWEVER FEDORENKO-RUN
CONFERENCES WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LESS THAN IDEAL
FORA FOR FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, THEIR CONTINUATION
OFFERS NECESSARY UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH KUZNETSOV CAN
PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR SERIES MORE SUBSTANTIVE MEET-
INGS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET LITERARY FIGURES, AS SUG-

GESTED IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH RICHMOND (REFTEL).

4. EMBASSY WILL CERTAINLY NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN WRITERS UNION INTERNAL AFFAIRS (PARA 6 REFTEL). ICA'S CAUTIONARY WELL TAKEN. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT ICA HELP US WRITERS WEARYING TOO SOON OF "INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE" WITH FEDORENKO-SELECTED SPARRING MATES TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLICATED PROCESS BY WHICH SOVIET WRITERS ARE ALLOWED TO--CAN ARRANGE TO--DELOP ON-GOING CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "CAPITALIST WORLD." IF KUZNETSOV, AND OTHERS, ARE TO SUCCEED IN EXPANDING THESE CONTACTS, SUCH DIFFICULT AND SEEMINGLY marginally PRODUCTIVE EFFORTS AS THE COUSINS-FEDORENKO CONFERENCES SHOULD CONTINUE DRAW OUR SUPPORT. MATLOCK

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